

IN THE CLAIMS

Amended claims follow:

1.-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for identifying a user using a user computer system among a group of users, ~~the method using a potentially non-unique member identifier~~, the method comprising:

(a) registering [[the]]~~a~~ user by:

(1) obtaining for the user a member identifier that is potentially not unique; and

(2) after obtaining the ~~solicited~~-member identifier, storing a unique identifier for the user on [[the]]~~a~~ user computer system in conjunction with the obtained member identifier; and

(b) identifying the user by:

(1) soliciting from the user the member identifier of the user;

(2) receiving the member identifier of the user;

(3) reading from the user computer system the unique identifier stored in conjunction with the member identifier received; and

(4) identifying the user using the unique identifier;

wherein the method is practiced on behalf of a first online service;

wherein obtaining for the user the member identifier comprises obtaining for the user a member identifier used by the user to identify the user to a second online service distinct from the first online service.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein a plurality of users having the same user computer system are registered by repeating (a)(1)-(a)(2) for each of the plurality of users.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51 wherein obtaining for the user [[a]]~~the member identifier further that is potentially not unique~~ comprises:
soliciting from the user [[a]]~~the member identifier of the user;~~ and
receiving from the user [[a]]~~the member identifier of the user.~~

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[54]]~~51~~ wherein obtaining for the user [[a]]~~the member identifier used by the user to identify himself or herself~~ the user to the second online service ~~comprises obtain[[s]]ing~~ the member identifier from an operator of the second online service.

56. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the user is authenticated to the first online service utilizing the member identifier, the unique identifier, and a password of the user.

57. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the unique identifier includes an electronic mail address.

58. (New) A computer program embodied on a tangible computer readable medium for identifying a user using a user computer system among a group of users, the computer program comprising:

(a) computer code for registering a user by:

(1) obtaining for the user a member identifier; and

(2) after obtaining the member identifier, storing a unique identifier for the user on a user computer system in conjunction with the obtained member identifier; and

(b) computer code for identifying the user by:

(1) soliciting from the user the member identifier of the user;

(2) receiving the member identifier of the user;

(3) reading from the user computer system the unique identifier stored in conjunction with the member identifier received; and

(4) identifying the user using the unique identifier;
wherein the computer program is executed on behalf of a first online service;
wherein obtaining for the user the member identifier comprises obtaining for the user a member identifier used by the user to identify the user to a second online service distinct from the first online service.

59. (New) The computer program of claim 58 wherein a plurality of users having the same user computer system are registered by repeating (a)(1)-(a)(2) for each of the plurality of users.

60. (New) The computer program of claim 58 wherein obtaining for the user the member identifier further comprises:

soliciting from the user the member identifier of the user; and
receiving from the user the member identifier of the user.

61. (New) The computer program of claim 58 wherein obtaining for the user the member identifier used by the user to identify the user to the second online service comprises obtaining the member identifier from an operator of the second online service.

62. (New) The computer program of claim 58 wherein the user is authenticated to the first online service utilizing the member identifier, the unique identifier, and a password of the user.

63. (New) The computer program of claim 58 wherein the unique identifier includes an electronic mail address.

64. (New) A system for identifying a user using a user computer system among a group of users, the system comprising:

(a) means for registering a user by:
(1) obtaining for the user a member identifier; and

(2) after obtaining the member identifier, storing a unique identifier for the user on a user computer system in conjunction with the obtained member identifier; and

(b) means for identifying the user by:

(1) soliciting from the user the member identifier of the user;

(2) receiving the member identifier of the user;

(3) reading from the user computer system the unique identifier stored in conjunction with the member identifier received; and

(4) identifying the user using the unique identifier;

wherein (a) and (b) operates on behalf of a first online service;

wherein obtaining for the user the member identifier comprises obtaining for the user a member identifier used by the user to identify the user to a second online service distinct from the first online service.